

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 EB-04 TRSE-00 STR-01 COME-00

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DRAFTED BY AGRICULTURE:JPHARTMAN/STATE:THGEWECKE

APPROVED BY EB/OT/TA:WGBARRACLOUGH

AGRICULTURE:PMACKIE

STATE:EJBEIGEL

TREASURY:BARREDA

COMMERCE:EWALINKSY/DSCHECHTY

STR:HWILLIAMS

EB/ORF:RSIMPSON

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R 012025Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11625: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGK, FR

SUBJECT: HORSEMEAT

REF: PARIS 24651

1. USG HAS NO AUTHORITY TO CONTROL EXPORTS FOR PURPOSE OF
REDUCING COMPETITIVE EFFECT OF US SALES IN FOREIGN MARKETS,

HOWEVER, OUR INVESTIGATION OF HORSEMEAT SITUATION INDICATES
THAT U.S. SHIPMENTS TO FRANCE SHOULD BE WITHIN LIMITS
MENTIONED BY GOF.

2. PHONE SURVEY OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTERS OF HORSEMEAT SHOWED
THAT THEY WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEM MENTIONED BY
GOF. THEIR ANTICIPATED DELIVERIES FOR THE MONTHS OF
NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER TO FRANCE HAVE BEEN CUT BY ONE-THIRD
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TO ONE-HALF. BASED UPON PRINCIPAL EXPORTERS' COMMITMENTS

AND THEIR OWN PRIVATE ESTIMATES IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE MONTHLY DELIVERY RATE DIRECTLY TO FRANCE WILL FALL SHORT OF THE 700 METRIC TON FIGURE. SOME ANTWERP SHIPMENTS MAY BE DESTINED ULTIMATELY FOR NETHERLANDS OR FRANCE. IN ANY CASE FINAL DESTINATIONS OF SHIPMENTS ARE GENERALLY UNKNOWN. EXPORTERS ARE AWARE OF FRENCH TRADE'S CONCERN AND BELIEVE SPREADING OUT OF SHIPMENTS WILL RESULT IN SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER FRENCH IMPORTS FROM U.S.

3. FYI: U.S. EXPORTERS EXPLAIN REDUCTION IN THEIR DELIVERIES TO FRANCE DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER AS RESULT OF LOWER DEMAND STEMMING FROM LATE AND BUNCHED ARRIVAL IN FRANCE OF LIVE HORSES FOR SLAUGHTER UNDER ANNUAL CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS FROM BOTH POLAND AND USSR. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT HORSE SLAUGHTER AND EXPORT OF HORSEMEAT FROM U.S. IS SOMEWHAT DELICATE MATTER AND SHOULD BE TREATED CAUTIOUSLY IN VIEW OF UNFAVORABLE U.S. PUBLIC REACTION WHICH IS POSSIBLE. HORSEMEAT FROM FEDERALLY INSPECTED PLANTS IS CONSIDERED INEDIBLE PRODUCT IN U.S. AND USED PRIMARILY FOR PET FOOD. INCREASED DEMAND FROM EUROPEAN MARKET HAS BEEN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN EXPANSION IN NUMBER OF USDA APPROVED SLAUGHTER PLANTS FROM 5 IN 1972 TO 13 CURRENTLY. SOME OF THESE PLANTS REPORTEDLY INVOLVE FOREIGN, INCLUDING FRENCH, CAPITAL. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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